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DE RUEHC #2973 2751920
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P R 021901Z OCT 09
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV PRIORITY 0000
INFO MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME COLLECTIVE
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102973

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/02/2034
TAGS: [ETTC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MTCRE](#) [MNUC](#) [UP](#) [SA](#)
SUBJECT: FORMAL REQUEST FOR A BRIEFING FROM THE GOU ON
PROPOSED UKRAINE-SAUDI SPACE LAUNCH COOPERATION (C)

Classified By: ISN/MTR DIRECTOR PAM DURHAM FOR REASONS 1.4
(B), (C), AND (D).

11. (U) This is an action request. Embassy Kyiv
please see para 5.

12. (C) In April 2009, Ukraine circulated to the Missile
Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Partners notification
of the GOU's intention to transfer MTCR Category I and
Category II items to Saudi Arabia. The notification
states that the transfers will be carried out consistent
with Ukraine's MTCR commitments and in the context of an
MOU between the Ukrainian National Space Agency and the
Saudi Science and Technology Center. It also states
that Ukraine plans to transfer to Saudi Arabia
"conceptual projects on the assessment of feasibility of
space and aerospace missile complexes for injection into
near-Earth orbit micro- and mini satellites of civil use
only from the territory of the Kingdom." However, it
does not provide any detailed information on what types
of equipment and technology will be transferred from
Ukraine to Saudi Arabia under the agreement.

13. (C) The U.S. raised concerns about the proposed
transfer with the Ukrainian MTCR delegation on the
margins of the April 2009 MTCR Reinforced Point of
Contact (RPOC) meeting in Paris. On instruction from
Kyiv, the Ukraine representative responded that the GOU
had anticipated that the U.S. would have questions and
was prepared to provide a full briefing if the U.S.
requested one. Beyond that, the Ukraine representative
had little to say except that nothing had yet been
transferred to Saudi Arabia. The U.S. responded that
this was a very serious matter and asked the Ukraine
representative to convey to Kyiv that the U.S. would
like to receive a briefing on the proposed Category I
cooperation with Saudi Arabia. In a separate
conversation, the UK made a similar request to Ukraine
and received an identical response. Subsequently, the
U.S. raised the issue with the Ukrainian Embassy in
Washington, which also agreed to convey to Kyiv our
concerns about the potential transfer and request for a
briefing.

14. (C) Despite the two requests for a briefing from
Ukraine officials on this proposed cooperation, when we
raised the matter during the September 23-24
nonproliferation talks in Kyiv, GOU officials indicated
that because the U.S. had not "formally" requested a
briefing, Ukraine was not prepared to discuss the issue.
In response, Acting A/S Vann Van Diepen verbally
requested a "formal" briefing and reiterated the strong
U.S. concerns about this activity. We understand
Embassy Kyiv submitted a formal request via diplomatic
note on September 28. We want to request that post use
all appropriate opportunities to emphasize the
importance of this issue and press for a response to our
formal request. In conjunction with this request, we

want to urge Ukraine to provide detailed information on the proposed Ukraine-Saudi cooperation, including information on the types of equipment and technology that will be transferred from Ukraine to Saudi Arabia under the agreement.

¶5. (U) Action Request: Request Embassy Kyiv approach appropriate Ukrainian government officials to deliver talking points in paragraph 6 below and report response. Talking points also may be provided as a non-paper. Post is also requested to ensure that the U.S. request is "formally" conveyed to Ukraine via whatever means deemed appropriate and press for a response.

¶6. (CONFIDENTIAL//REL UKRAINE) BEGIN POINTS:

-- As discussed on the margins of the April 2009 MTCR Reinforced Point of Contact meeting in Paris, and again during the September 23-24 nonproliferation talks in Kyiv, the United States formally requests from Ukraine detailed information on its proposed transfer of MTCR controlled equipment and technology to Saudi Arabia.

-- In particular, we would like to receive a detailed description of the nature and purpose of the proposed transfer, and of all MTCR-controlled equipment and technology proposed to be transferred, and the role of each such item in the proposed project in Saudi Arabia.

-- We look forward to having detailed consultations on this issue on the margins of the 2009 MTCR Rio Plenary in November. In that connection, it will be important for the United States to receive the requested information sufficiently far in advance to permit study, and for Ukrainian experts able to answer U.S. technical questions to attend the Rio consultations.

¶7. (U) Please contact ISN/MTR's John Paul Herrmann with any questions or follow-up related to this case (202-647-1430 - herrmannjp2@state.gov or herrmannjp@state.sgov.gov) and slug reporting on this issue for ISN/MTR, EUR/UMB and EUR/PRA.
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